United Nations A/C.5/54/62*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 May 2000
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-fourth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 124
Pattern of conferences

Letter dated 8 May 2000 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I am writing to bring to the attention of the Fifth Committee the following matter:

1. The Committee on Conferences has considered the possibility of holding its 2000 substantive session at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 23 of section B of resolution 54/248.

2. The Committee has concluded that holding its 2000 session at UNON, as well as holding future substantive sessions at other United Nations conference centres, would enhance its understanding of Secretariat-wide issues affecting the implementation of the calendar of conferences and meetings, and would increase awareness of General Assembly directives regarding conference servicing at those duty stations. Consequently, the Committee is in favour of holding its 2000 session at UNON, and requests the General Assembly to take a decision in this regard.

3. The Committee was intent that full attendance by its members, and participation by representatives with a high level of expertise in the subjects it examines, should be ensured for the session at UNON, for which a measure of financial support would be required. In this connection, the Committee notes that a decision by the General Assembly regarding the applicability of General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII) on the system of travel and subsistence allowances to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations would be required.

4. The Committee looks forward to early consideration of this matter by the Fifth Committee.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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